

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Applicant: John S. Lee, et al.
Serial No.: 09/501,434
Title: MEDIUM HANDLER AND ORGANIZER

Atty. Docket No. 510.030US01
Filed: February 10, 2000

Remarks**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 14-16, and 18-26 were rejected under USC §103(a) by the Examiner as being unpatentable over Balsom (U.S. Patent 5,592,596) in view of Zejda (U.S. Patent 5,913,652).

Applicant traverses this rejection. The Zejda reference Teaches rotatable carousels (20, 24, 26 and 27) that hold multiple CD's on a common plane. The CD's do not share a common axis. Further, the carousels rotate about a vertical axis, not a horizontal axis.

Applicant's claims provide a gripping head that rotates about a horizontal axis, and hold CD's on different planes coextensive along a common axis, see also Figures 3 and 4 of the application.

Reference Forget et al, US Pat No. 5,485,436 has been cited by the Examiner but not used as a basis for rejection. Applicant notes that the reference illustrates a CD gripper that can hold two CD's on a common plane and different axis by side-by-side arms. Further the side-by-side arms of the gripper do not allow the gripper to rotate about a horizontal axis.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-13 and 27-31 are allowable over prior art.

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but Examiner stated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. They have been so amended.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 312-2202.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/18/02



Russell D. Slifer

Reg. No. 39,838

Attorneys for Applicant
Slifer Polglaze Leffert & Jay, PA
P.O. Box 581009
Minneapolis, MN 55458-1009

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Marked Up Version Showing Changes Made**In the Claims:**

1. A compact disc processing system comprising:
 - a printer for printing indicia on a first compact disc;
 - a recorder for recording information on the first compact disc; and
 - a transporter carriage for holding the first compact disc and moving the first compact disc between the recorder and printer, the transporter carriage comprises a single [horizontally rotatable] gripping head rotatable about a horizontal axis and having first and second gripping locations each for respectively holding the first and a second compact disc simultaneously, such that the first and second compact discs are held in fixed relative positions coextensive along a common axis in different planes while the first and second compact discs are engaged by the gripping head

14. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, a recorder for recording information on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs in a fixed axial relation, the method comprising:
 - gripping a first compact disc with the transporter carriage;
 - moving the transporter carriage to the recorder and placing the first compact disc in the recorder;
 - moving the transporter carriage to a supply location and gripping a second compact disc with the transporter carriage while the first compact disc is in the recorder;
 - removing the first compact disc from the recorder with the transporter carriage, such that the transporter carriage simultaneously grips both the first and second compact discs on first and second planes, respectively, wherein the first and second compact discs are coextensive along a common axis in different planes;
 - rotating the transporter carriage about a horizontal axis;
 - placing the second compact disc in the recorder after the first compact disc has been removed; and

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moving the transporter carriage to the printer, rotating the transporter carriage about the horizontal axis and placing the first compact disc in the printer.

18. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, a recorder for recording information on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding two compact discs, the method comprises in order of:

gripping a first compact discs with the transporter carriage;

moving the transporter carriage to the recorder and placing the first compact disc in the recorder;

moving the transporter carriage to a supply location and gripping a second compact disc with the transporter carriage while the first compact disc is in the recorder;

removing the first compact disc from the recorder with the transporter carriage, such that the transporter carriage simultaneously grips both the first and second compact discs on first and second planes, respectively, and the first and second compact discs are held in fixed axial positions coextensive along a common axis in different planes while the first and second compact discs are engaged by the gripping head;

rotating the transporter carriage about a horizontal axis;

placing the second compact disc in the recorder after the first compact disc has been removed; and

moving the transporter carriage to the printer, rotating the transporter carriage about the horizontal axis and placing the first compact disc in the printer.

19. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, a recorder for recording data on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs on first and second planes such that the two discs are held in fixed relative positions coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

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either recording data on the first compact disc using a recorder, or printing indicia on the first compact disc with the printer; [and]

gripping a second compact disc using the transporter carriage while the first compact disc is located in either the recorder or the printer; and

removing the first compact disc from the recorder or printer with the transporter carriage while simultaneously gripping the second compact disc on an opposite side of a horizontal axis of the transporter carriage.

20. (Cancel)

21. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, a recorder for recording information on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

gripping a first compact disc located in the printer with the transporter carriage;
removing the first compact disc from the printer;

moving the transporter carriage to the recorder and gripping a second compact disc located in the recorder with the transporter carriage, wherein the first and second compact discs are held in fixed axial positions while the first and second compact discs are engged by the gripping head;

removing the second compact disc from the recorder;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about a horizontal axis;
placing the first compact disc in the recorder;
moving the transporter carriage to the printer;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about the horizontal axis; and
placing the second compact disc in the printer.

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22. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, a recorder for recording information on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs on first and second planes such that the two discs are held in fixed relative positions coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

gripping a first compact disc located in the recorder with the transporter carriage;
removing the first compact disc from the recorder;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about a horizontal axis;
moving the transporter carriage to the printer and gripping a second compact disc located in the printer with the transporter carriage:
removing the second compact disc from the printer;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about the horizontal axis;
placing the first compact disc in the printer;
moving the transporter carriage to the recorder;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about the horizontal axis; and
placing the second compact disc in the recorder.

23. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a recorder for recording data on the compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs on first and second planes coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

gripping a first compact disc located in the recorder with a single [horizontal rotatable] gripper head of the transporter carriage, wherein the gripper head is rotatable about a horizontal axis;
removing the first compact disc from the recorder with the gripper head such that the first compact disc and a second compact disc are held in fixed relative positions by the gripper head;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about the horizontal axis; and

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placing the second compact disc in the recorder without releasing the first compact disc or moving the transporter carriage from the recorder to a compact disc supply location.

24. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a printer for printing indicia on a compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two compact discs on first and second planes such that the two discs are held in fixed relative positions coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

gripping a first compact disc located in the printer with the transporter carriage;
removing the first compact disc from the printer;
rotating the transporter carriage 180 degrees about a horizontal axis; and
placing a second compact disc in the printer without releasing the first compact disc or moving the transporter carriage from the printer to a compact disc supply location.

25. A method of operating a disc processing system comprising a processing station to perform a processing operation on a compact disc, and a transporter carriage for simultaneously holding at least two axially aligned compact discs on first and second planes coextensive along a common axis in different planes, the method comprising:

gripping a first compact disc located in the processing station with the transport carriage;
removing the first compact disc from the processing station;
rotating the transporter carriage about a horizontal axis; and
placing a second compact disc in the processing station without releasing the first compact disc or moving the transporter carriage from the processing station to a compact disc supply location.